



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/041

Geneva, 30 April 2020

CONCERNING:

### Identification of timber and other wood products

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 and renewed Decision 16.58 on *Identification of timber and other wood products*, as contained in the Annex to this Notification.
2. In line with paragraph a) of Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP18), the Secretariat hereby requests Parties to share any information and materials they have developed for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the Secretariat will publish the information submitted in response to this request on the CITES website, as per paragraph b) of Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP18).
4. Parties are also encouraged to share with the Secretariat any information or progress relating to the implementation of Decision 18.141, paragraphs a) to e).
5. Responses to this Notification are to be submitted by 30 May 2020 to [isabel.camarena@cites.org](mailto:isabel.camarena@cites.org) and [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org).

Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 and 16.58 (Rev. CoP18) on  
Identification of timber and other wood products

**18.140 Directed to the Plants Committee**

The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives:

- a) determine gaps and complementarities in various tools and knowledge sources for timber identification, such as existing field identification guidelines and keys, and on their availability and usefulness;
- b) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- c) assist Parties to identify existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products and to strengthen screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES-listed tree species in trade;
- d) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties; and
- e) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made on the implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.142; and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

**18.141 Directed to Parties**

Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Plants Committee, with relevant stakeholders and with existing initiatives in the implementation of Decision 18.140, by:

- a) working with institutions having wood identification expertise, in order to share information related to timber identification methods, tools and protocols for enforcement and customs officers;
- b) identifying existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products, and strengthening screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES-listed tree species in trade;
- c) identifying effective wood identification training methods, tools and protocols for enforcement and customs officers;
- d) prioritizing the species of rosewoods and palisanders that would most benefit from the development of timber identification tools, protocols and materials; and
- e) reporting information on existing laboratories, effective wood identification training methods, tools and protocols for enforcement and customs officers, and the priority species of rosewoods and palisanders to the Plants Committee.

**18.142 Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with organizations having relevant expertise on timber identification, including the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN), the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber, the European Forest Institute (EFI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Resources Institute (WRI) to identify shared priorities, in consultation with the Plants Committee, including priority species, emerging techniques, standardized procedures, and collection and sharing of wood samples applicable to timber tracking tools;
- b) make the currently available guidance on wood identification accessible to Parties through the CITES website; and
- c) report to the Plants Committee on progress with the implementation of this Decision.

**18.143 Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall review any updates received from the Plants Committee on the implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.142, and provide recommendations to the Plants Committee, as appropriate.

**16.58 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall:

- a) obtain information and materials from those Parties that have reported that they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments;
- b) publish the information on the CITES website so that it can be accessed by CITES plant inspection and enforcement authorities; and
- c) incorporate this information into its capacity-building activities related to timber trade.